



STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
Oil, Gas & Mining

Norman H. Bangerter, Governor  
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director  
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355 W. North Temple • 3 Triad Center • Suite 350 • Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203 • 801-538-5340

November 4, 1987

Mr. Paul Bunge  
1309 Glenwood  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Dear Mr. Bunge:

Re: Information on Small Mine Operations, Dolores Placer,  
DOE/019/041, Grand County, Utah

It is my understanding that you have a placer mine on the Dolores River. This mine was previously exempt from the State of Utah 1975 Mined Land Reclamation Act due to its small size. More specifically, the 1975 Act stated that any mining operations that qualified under the following size category were exempt from the Mined Land Reclamation Act:

"...less than 500 tons of material are mined in a period of twelve consecutive months or where less than two acres of land are excavated or used as a disposal site in a period of twelve consecutive months...."

The Utah State Legislature modified the Mined Land Reclamation Act during the 1986 and 1987 general session. In part, the amended act eliminates the two acre/500 ton exemption and establishes a "small mining operation" category in its place. Small mining operations are defined as:

"...mining operations which disturb or will disturb five or less surface acres at any given time."

The Division is currently developing rules and regulations regarding small mine operations. These rules will probably be implemented sometime in 1988. All active mine operations which were previously exempt will be required to file at that time under the provisions of the new law and regulations.




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The new rules will go through a lengthy state-wide public comment period before they are adopted. This will include at least one public hearing in Moab which I encourage you to attend. I have enclosed the current draft form for small mine operations so that you will have some idea of the approach that we are taking. The form is general in nature, and we hope that it will tie in well with the Bureau of Land Management requirements.

Feel free to give me a call if you should have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank J. Filas", written in a cursive style.

Frank J. Filas  
Reclamation Engineer

clj  
Enclosure  
cc: L. Braxton  
R. McParland, BLM - Grand RA  
1311R/53-54